

*Commissioners*

**MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ**, *Chair*  
**WILLIAM J. KRESSE**, *Commissioner/Secretary*  
**JONATHAN T. SWAIN**, *Commissioner*  
**LANCE GOUGH**, *Executive Director*



**Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago**  
**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting**  
**June 25, 2019, 9:30 a.m.**

**69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602**

**Board Members:**

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chairwoman  
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary  
Jonathan T. Swain, Commissioner

**Staff:**

Lance Gough, Executive Director  
Charles Holiday, Assistant Executive Director [absent]  
Adam W. Lasker, General Counsel  
James P. Allen, Communications Director  
Joan T. Agnew, Deputy Counsel  
Peter Peso, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
LaCretia Dandridge, Manager Human Resources  
Joan T. Agnew, Deputy Counsel  
Bill Perez, Coordinator Hispanic Outreach  
Opal Walls, Purchasing Agent  
Amanda Robledo, Purchasing  
Sarita Villarreal, Consultant  
Dean Ftikas, Consultant  
Shobhana Verma, Consultant  
Trupti Patel  
Gary Ryczyn, Consultant  
Geneva Morris, Videographer  
Trish Sheehy

**Guests:**

Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters of Chicago (LWV Chicago)  
Judd Ryan, ES&S

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:39 am.
- II. Roll Call: All Board members were present.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: Items VIIA(1) through VIIA(6) were deferred to a future meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

- A. Minutes of the Canvassing Board Meeting of April 2, 2019, which reconvened and was adjourned on April 18, 2019

Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Minutes of the Canvassing Board Meeting of April 2, 2019, which reconvened and was adjourned on April 18, 2019. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion was passed and the Minutes were approved by a 3:0 vote of the Board.

- B. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 23, 2019

Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 23, 2019. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

V. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Lance Gough reported as follows:

- Mr. Gough requested authorization to send a letter that he had drafted to the Aldermen regarding the changes to precincts. The Chair and Commissioner Kresse verbally approved Mr. Gough's request.
- Mr. Gough provided the Board members with a copy of the cybersecurity table top exercise that was held in Springfield last week. It was done so well that Mr. Gough has asked the State and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to perform the same table top test in our office.
- Mr. Gough and staff met with two vendors regarding the Board's needs with new voting equipment. We have seen the various vendors' demonstrations and proposals. We should be getting responses from the vendors soon, and Mr. Gough will forward them to the Board. As for finances, it will need to be a payment plan spread over several years, similar to how the County financed their recent purchase of voting equipment. At the end of the payments the Board will hold title to the equipment.
- We are preparing for the 2020 elections.
  - Our IT Department is checking with each department to see what their needs are for the 2020 Primary
  - Although we are working on our 2020 calendar, we are waiting for the Illinois State Board of Elections' calendar/pamphlet to make sure that the calendars agree.
- The 2019 finances look solid. The Finance Director provided Mr. Gough with account balances and the office is solvent at this time.
- The office has been conducting a search for a new Purchasing Agent/Director. Mr. Gough introduced the recommended hire, Ms. Opal Walls, who provided some background

information about herself and to officially accept the position as the Board's Purchasing Agent.

Ms. Walls addressed the Board, giving some background information, including:

- She was born and raised in the City of Chicago;
- She attended Chicago Public Schools;
- She graduated from Elmhurst College; and,
- She has worked in government for about 17 years, primarily at Chicago Public Schools where she held the position of Chief Procurement Officer as well as Business Diversity Officer.

Ms. Walls then officially accepted the position of Purchasing Agent to the Board.

The Chair stated that the Board is excited that Ms. Walls has accepted and looks forward to working with her.

- Mr. Gough continued his report by stating that we are still working on contingency plans. Mr. Allen will discuss that further in his report.
- We are working with the Department of Justice (DoJ) on a new settlement agreement With regards to ADA matters, which we hope to have finished soon.

A. Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Gough stated that Assistant Executive Director Charles Holiday is absent from today's meeting. Mr. Gough noted that Mr. Holiday had offered to telephone into the meeting, even though he would be on the road at that time. Mr. Gough told Mr. Holiday that telephoning in would not be necessary. The Chair pointed out that Mr. Holiday is a great and loyal employee.

B. Communications Director's report

Communications Director Jim Allen reported as follows:

- There has been much focus on the Board's contingency and emergency plans meetings. These meetings have continued since the Board last met.
- We have also been working on specifications for canvass contracts.
- He has been dealing with media inquiries
- We have been updating the website, which must be performed before we convert the website to .gov.

Commissioner Swain wanted it stated on the record, and applaud Mr. Allen for coming up with the idea of the "I voted" wrist bands. Commissioner Swain had attended a fashion show at Whitney Young High School where one of the students wore a dress made up entirely of our wrist bands. The Chair suggested that we acquire the dress.

VI. Old Business

A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: already discussed.

B. Electronic Poll Books – Judd Ryan of ES&S addressed the Board stating that the only change to be dealt with is on incorporating the Department of Justice survey form into the poll worker module of the e-poll book. Voting Equipment: discussed above.

C. Legislation

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported that the wait continues with regards to an omnibus election law bill, noting that even though the State Legislature extended the omnibus deadline, the legislature has taken no action yet.

VII. New Business

A. Professional Services Agreements between the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago and the following:

1. Dean Ftikas
2. JPA Consulting Group, Inc.
3. Guillermo Perez
4. Gary M. Ryczyn
5. Sarita Villarreal
6. Shobhana Johri Verma
7. SKU Corp.

Mr. Gough stated that he sat down with Commissioner Swain who had had some concerns regarding these items.

Commissioner Swain wanted to clarify for the record – and to all those listed- that his concerns are in no way a comment on the work and talent that these people have brought to the Board for many years. The concerns Commissioner Swain raised with Mr. Gough focused on the question of balance between employees and contractors.

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Swain then stated that he is prepared to move forward on agenda item number 7 (SKU Corp), but would wish to defer action on items 1-6 until the next meeting.

Commissioner Kresse asked General Counsel Lasker if deferring items 1 through 6 would be permissible.

Mr. Lasker stated that these items are not due to expire until the end of this month. If we ask these individuals to continue working past the end of this month, we will continue paying them under the terms of the current contract on a month-to-month basis.

Commissioner Swain moved to defer items 1 through 6 until the next meeting.

Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion carried by 3:0 vote of the Board and items 1-6 were deferred until the next scheduled meeting of the Board.

As for item 7, Mr. Lasker explained that SKU is a privately owned business that has worked with the Board on many projects and also works with the Cook County Clerk. SKU

has developed our Voter Registration system and many other components that we use at the Board of Elections.

Mr. Lasker explained that this item has two components. One is a maintenance and support contract for the various modules that we are currently using. The other involves several new projects.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Kresse moved to enter into a Professional Service Agreement with SKU Corp for support and maintenance. The term of which would be July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021 at the rate of \$28,175 per month. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Mr. Lasker pointed out that the second contract is for new development projects.

Discussion ensued as to the second contract with SKU.

Commissioner Kresse moved to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with SKU Corp for new development with a term of July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020 (18 months) in the amount of \$377,050 to be paid in 18 monthly installments of \$20,947.22 per month. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

#### VIII. Legal Report

- On Friday of last week the First District Appellate issued a decision in the case involving the citywide mayoral term limit and consumer advocacy referenda petition that was filed with the City Clerk last summer. Our Electoral Board found two legal reasons for keeping the referenda off the ballot. This matter was split into two lawsuits. One case already went up to the Illinois Supreme Court and has been decided. This instant case is the original action which had already been to the Appellate Court, but returned on another issue. In this latest opinion, the Appellate Court again agreed with the actions of the Board.
- Regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) settlements with the Department of Justice (DoJ), the DoJ has seen the work we have done and agrees that there has been progress. The DoJ has agreed to extend the agreement and the benchmarks because the DoJ is pleased with what we are doing.
- Commissioner Kresse had some questions regarding attorneys working on the accessibility project. Mr. Lasker stated that currently the project does not have any attorneys (other than those with Equip For Equality) working on the project. The new plan regarding the polling place survey will have Board employees and other sister agencies completing the surveys. This summer Equip For Equality and the Board are training core groups. Additionally, the City might use city inspectors for their properties. Additionally, we have improved the survey tool.

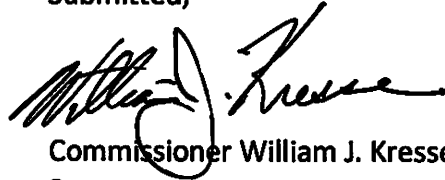
IX. Financial Report: None.

X. Public Comment: None.

XI. Executive Session: None.

XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn until the next scheduled meeting on July 9. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Kresse", is written over the printed name and title.

Commissioner William J. Kresse  
Secretary